

REMARKS

The word VELCRO® has been identified as a registered trademark at page 41, line 1 of the specification.

Claims 6–21, 27, 68–76, and 85–88 are in pending in the application.

Claims 7–10 and 16–18 have been allowed.

Claims 6, 11–15, 19–21, 27, 68–76 and 85–88 were rejected.

Claims 7, 11, 13, 19, 27, 68, 69, 70, 85 and 86 have been amended.

In this Response claim 19 has been amended at line 4 to show the word "~~support~~" in strikeout, as ~~support~~. Also, In claim 70, line 11, the word "support" has been added in strikeout, as ~~support~~. Further, in claim 69, line 11, the word and has been added to refer to "hook and loop fastener." In claim 85 a redundancy has been deleted.

The courtesy of Examiners Todd M. Epps and Alfred J. Wujciak in conducting a personal interview with the undersigned attorney on June 22, 2006, and a follow-up telephone interview on June 26, 2006, is noted with appreciation. During the interview a prototype of the invention was shown to and operated before the Examiners. The courtesy of the Examiners in conducting a telephone interview with the undersigned on July 25, 2006, during which the issue of non-entry of the prior Amendments after final rejection was discussed, also is noted with appreciation.

As is indicated above claims 7, 11, 13, 19, 27, 68, 69, 70, 85 and 86 have been amended. In a number of the claims the words referring to supporting a cover from a base has been amended to read "to mount the cover to the base." This change was

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suggested by the Examiners during the interviews. Initially the magnet mechanism mounts the cover to the base to hold the cover and base together. After the mechanical retainer, e.g., note claims 7, 11, 13, 19, and 27, or the second attachment, e.g., note claims 68 and 70, is made active, it also can retain the cover and base together if the magnet mechanism were to become released. Similar changes also were made to method claims 85 and 86, at the suggestion of the Examiners.

During the interview the distinctions of the invention over the applied references were discussed. For example, it was pointed out to the Examiners that although Niederhost discloses a magnetic key, that key does not mount a cover to a base; it merely locks the cover from rotating relative to the base. Niederhost does not disclose a magnetic device to mount the cover to the base. Niederhost also does not disclose a fixture mounting structure, as is set forth in claim 6, for example, including both a magnetic device to mount the cover to the base and a selectively operable mechanical retainer to provide retention of the cover to the base. Similar recitations are in a number of the other independent claims, e.g., apparatus type claims 11, 13, 19, 27, and 68 and method claims 85 and 86, as is mentioned above. Claim 69 is directed to a mounting system that includes a multi-retention mechanism to hold a base and mounting member together, and the multi-retention mechanism includes a mechanical attachment that is selectively operable to release and hold and operates using a positive lock, and a second attachment that operates responsive to a positional relationship; that second attachment comprises hook and loop fastener. Claim 70 also is directed to a mounting system that includes a multi-retention mechanism, including two attachments, one that is selectively operable to release and hold and operates using a positive lock and a second attachment that is selectively operable independently from the one mechanical attachment to release and hold and operates responsive to a positional relationship to mount the mounting member to the base.

The Examiners tentatively indicated that independent claims 6, 11, 13, 19, 27, 68, 69, 70, 85 and 86 are allowable, subject to updating the search.

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Regarding claim 85, a redundancy (the "whereby" clause) has been deleted.

The independent claims were discussed during the interviews and are discussed above. The dependent claims point out additional features of the invention and further distinguish over the prior art.

In addition to the allowance of claims 7-10 and 16-18, it is submitted that for the above reasons claims 6, 11-15, 19-21, 27, 68-76, and 85-88 also are allowable. Accordingly, it is believed that all claims now are allowable and that all rejections should be withdrawn and the application allowed.

If there are any questions or if the Examiners feel that a further interview, either in person or by telephone, would be helpful to advance favorable prosecution, they are invited to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney.

A Petition for two month Extension of Time and the fee were filed with the prior Response that was filed June 28, 2006. A third month Extension is needed; please consider this a request for an Extension, and charge the fee for the extension to applicant's attorneys' deposit account 18-0988 (under the above docket number).

The RCE filing fee of \$395 is paid herewith. If any additional fee is required, please charge the fee to Applicant's Attorney's Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (under the above Docket Number).

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

/Warren A Sklar/
Warren A. Sklar
Reg. No. 26,373

DATE: July 26, 2006

Serial No.: 10/007,509

The Keith Building
1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 621-1113

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Patent and Trademark Office to the Attention of Examiner Todd M. Epps.

/Warren A Sklar/
Warren A. Sklar

July 26, 2006
Date

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